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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December Jobless Rates Increase Seasonally in Majority of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in December rose in nine of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment and labor force levels fell seasonally over the month in nearly all regions.

"Michigan's local labor markets reported fairly typical movement in December, with northern regions posting large seasonal jobless rate increases, while the southern areas recorded mostly marginal changes," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Overall in 2016, all major labor market areas in the state showed unemployment rate declines."

From November to December, unemployment rates advanced in nine areas, declined slightly in five, and were unchanged in the Jackson, Midland, and Muskegon Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). December jobless rate increases in the state's three northernmost labor market regions were by far the largest. Rates advanced in the Northeast Lower Michigan region by 1.5 percentage points, and by 0.8 of a percentage point in both the Upper Peninsula and the Northwest Lower Michigan region. The remaining monthly unemployment rate hikes were limited to 0.5 of a percentage point or less. Five areas posted minor jobless rate reductions in December ranging from -0.1 to -0.4 of a percentage point. In December, nine of the 17 Michigan regions displayed unemployment rates at or below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 4.5 percent.

Annual Average Unemployment Rates Fall Over Year

Preliminary annual average data indicated that unemployment rates declined from 2015 to 2016 in all major regions of the state (see page 7). Annual jobless rate reductions ranged from -0.3 to -0.8 of a percentage point with a median decrease of a half percentage point. The -0.5 of a percentage point median decline was similar to both the Michigan annual rate drop of -0.6 of a percentage point, as well as the national reduction of -0.4 of a percentage point. The largest Michigan area jobless rate declines over this period were posted in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn and the Muskegon MSAs.

Total Employment Down Over Month, Year

From November to December, total employment fell seasonally in 16 regions. Over-the-month reductions ranged from -0.4 to -2.3 percent, with a median decline of -1.4 percent. The most pronounced percentage drops were recorded in the Jackson MSA (-2.3%), the Northeast Lower Michigan Region (-2.0%), and the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (-1.9%). In December, total employment rose modestly in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn MSA (+0.2%).

Since December 2015, total employment declined in 11 of the 17 regions. Over-the-year reductions ranged from -0.1 to -1.7 percent with a median drop of -0.9 percent. The largest employment cuts between December 2015 and December 2016 were registered in the Jackson (-1.7%), Bay City (-1.6%), and Niles-Benton Harbor (-1.4%) MSAs, along with the Upper Peninsula (-1.4%). Total employment rose since December 2015 in six regions, with the largest percentage gains recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs.

Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Mixed Over Year

During December, workforce levels fell seasonally in 16 regions, while the labor force in the Northwest Lower Michigan region recorded a modest increase (+0.3%). Over-the-month workforce reductions ranged from -0.1 to -2.1 percent with a median decline of -1.2 percent.

Between December 2015 and December 2016, labor force levels rose in eight areas, decreased in seven areas and were essentially unchanged in the Battle Creek and Monroe MSAs. The median over-the-year increase was 1.1 percent, while the median decline was -0.7 percent over this period.

Payroll Jobs Fell Seasonally in December

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan dropped by 29,000 or 0.7 percent in December to 4,378,000. Seasonal job cuts over the month were posted in construction (-15,000), professional and business services (-8,000), government (-8,000), and private education (-4,000). The state's remaining industry sectors were little changed over the month.

Over the holiday hiring season from September to December 2016, jobs in retail trade rose by 10,000 in Michigan, which was somewhat less than the 13,000 gain over the same period in 2015. The majority of the government job reduction in December was centered in state government education with the beginning of the holiday break at area colleges and universities.

In December, payroll jobs declined in 13 of the state's 14 major metropolitan regions. Regional job reductions ranged from -0.2 to -1.6 percent with a median decrease of -0.8 percent. Job totals were essentially unchanged over the month in the Midland MSA.

From December 2015 to December 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 74,000 or 1.7 percent. Nearly all major industry sectors in the state recorded job gains since December 2015 with the exception of a minor decline in trade, transportation and utilities. Sectors with the largest numerical job gains since December 2015 were professional and business services (+28,000), leisure and hospitality services (+16,000), and education and health services (+10,000).

Since December 2015, payroll jobs increased in 11 of the 14 metro areas, with a 1.7 percent median advance. The largest over-the-year job gains on a percentage basis were displayed in the Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Kalamazoo-Portage, and Muskegon MSAs. Payroll jobs declined over the year in the Bay City and Jackson MSAs, while jobs were essentially unchanged over this period in the Niles-Benton Harbor metro area.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Year

Fifty-nine of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal jobless rate hikes in December with a median increase of 0.8 of a percentage point. The largest December rate advances mostly occurred in the state's northern counties. Unemployment rates declined over the month in 18 counties, and were unchanged in the remaining six. Since December 2015, jobless rates rose slightly in 73 counties, with a minor median hike of 0.4 of a percentage point. Unemployment rates declined in eight counties over the year, and the rates were unchanged in Oscoda and Lenawee counties.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data. A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted December workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for December.*

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	193,300	202,100	198,500	-1.8%	2.7%
Total Employment	188,400	196,000	193,300	-1.4%	2.6%
Unemployment	4,900	6,100	5,200	-14.8%	6.1%
Rate (percent)	2.5	3.0	2.6		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,500	65,200	64,500	-1.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	62,000	62,600	61,800	-1.3%	-0.3%
Unemployment	2,500	2,700	2,700	0.0%	8.0%
Rate (percent)	3.9	4.1	4.2		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,800	52,600	52,200	-0.8%	-1.1%
Total Employment	50,500	50,200	49,700	-1.0%	-1.6%
Unemployment	2,300	2,300	2,500	8.7%	8.7%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.4	4.9		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,002	2,071	2,069	-0.1%	3.3%
Total Employment	1,894	1,966	1,970	0.2%	4.0%
Unemployment	107	105	99	-5.7%	-7.5%
Rate (percent)	5.4	5.1	4.8		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,700	184,300	181,800	-1.4%	-0.5%
Total Employment	174,300	175,600	172,800	-1.6%	-0.9%
Unemployment	8,500	8,700	9,000	3.4%	5.9%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.7	5.0		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	559,100	571,500	564,600	-1.2%	1.0%
Total Employment	543,400	553,600	547,700	-1.1%	0.8%
Unemployment	15,700	17,900	16,900	-5.6%	7.6%
Rate (percent)	2.8	3.1	3.0		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,900	72,400	70,900	-2.1%	-1.4%
Total Employment	69,000	69,400	67,800	-2.3%	-1.7%
Unemployment	2,900	3,100	3,100	0.0%	6.9%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.3	4.3		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	166,900	170,800	168,800	-1.2%	1.1%
Total Employment	161,000	164,300	162,200	-1.3%	0.7%
Unemployment	5,900	6,500	6,600	1.5%	11.9%
Rate (percent)	3.5	3.8	3.9		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	243,600	250,500	245,400	-2.0%	0.7%
Total Employment	235,900	242,000	237,300	-1.9%	0.6%
Unemployment	7,700	8,500	8,200	-3.5%	6.5%
Rate (percent)	3.2	3.4	3.3		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA					
(Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,700	41,900	41,400	-1.2%	-0.7%
Total Employment	40,100	40,200	39,700	-1.2%	-1.0%
Unemployment	1,600	1,700	1,700	0.0%	6.3%
Rate (percent)	3.8	4.1	4.1		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,200	78,700	77,200	-1.9%	0.0%
Total Employment	74,600	75,800	74,500	-1.7%	-0.1%
Unemployment	2,500	2,900	2,600	-10.3%	4.0%
Rate (percent)	3.3	3.7	3.4		

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MUSKEGON MSA					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,000	78,800	77,700	-1.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	73,700	75,200	74,200	-1.3%	0.7%
Unemployment	3,300	3,600	3,500	-2.8%	6.1%
Rate (percent)	4.3	4.6	4.6		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,800	74,500	73,300	-1.6%	-0.7%
Total Employment	70,900	71,200	69,900	-1.8%	-1.4%
Unemployment	3,000	3,300	3,400	3.0%	13.3%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.4	4.6		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	90,500	91,000	90,300	-0.8%	-0.2%
Total Employment	86,600	87,000	86,200	-0.9%	-0.5%
Unemployment	3,800	4,000	4,100	2.5%	7.9%
Rate (percent)	4.2	4.4	4.5		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,000	140,100	139,300	-0.6%	-0.5%
Total Employment	132,000	132,100	130,200	-1.4%	-1.4%
Unemployment	8,100	8,000	9,100	13.8%	12.3%
Rate (percent)	5.8	5.7	6.5		

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	<u>Dec-15</u>	<u>Nov-16</u>	<u>Dec-16</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	80,800	81,600	81,400	-0.2%	0.7%
Total Employment	75,100	76,100	74,600	-2.0%	-0.7%
Unemployment	5,700	5,600	6,700	19.6%	17.5%
Rate (percent)	7.1	6.8	8.3		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	146,300	146,300	146,700	0.3%	0.3%
Total Employment	139,000	139,300	138,700	-0.4%	-0.2%
Unemployment	7,300	6,900	8,100	17.4%	11.0%
Rate (percent)	5.0	4.7	5.5		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,753	4,866	4,831	-0.7%	1.6%
Total Employment	4,539	4,648	4,617	-0.7%	1.7%
Unemployment	214	218	214	-1.8%	0.0%
Rate (percent)	4.5	4.5	4.4		

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**MICHIGAN'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREAS
PRELIMINARY ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2015 – 2016**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
ANN ARBOR MSA	3.5	3.2
BATTLE CREEK MSA	4.9	4.4
BAY CITY MSA	5.5	4.9
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA	6.2	5.4
FLINT MSA	5.8	5.1
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA	3.7	3.2
JACKSON MSA	5.1	4.6
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA	4.5	4.0
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA	4.3	3.8
MIDLAND MSA	4.7	4.3
MONROE MSA	4.4	4.0
MUSKEGON MSA	5.6	4.8
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA	5.0	4.5
SAGINAW MSA	5.5	4.8
UPPER PENINSULA LMA	6.5	6.0
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN	7.6	7.0
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN	5.8	5.1
MICHIGAN	5.4	4.8

(more)

**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
DECEMBER 2016**

1	Washtenaw County	2.6	43	Missaukee County	5.4
2	Ottawa County	2.8	44	Wexford County	5.4
3	Kent County	2.9	45	Sanilac County	5.5
4	Clinton County	3.0	46	Van Buren County	5.5
5	Eaton County	3.3	47	St. Clair County	5.6
6	Barry County	3.4	48	Tuscola County	5.6
7	Ingham County	3.4	49	Marquette County	5.6
8	Kalamazoo County	3.4	50	Wayne County	5.7
9	Allegan County	3.4	51	Charlevoix County	5.9
10	St. Joseph County	3.4	52	Otsego County	5.9
11	Monroe County	3.4	53	Mason County	5.9
12	Ionia County	3.5	54	Manistee County	6.3
13	Livingston County	3.6	55	Gladwin County	6.5
14	Lenawee County	3.6	56	Delta County	6.5
15	Isabella County	3.6	57	Benzie County	6.6
16	Oakland County	3.7	58	Iron County	6.9
17	Grand Traverse County	4.0	59	Kalkaska County	6.9
18	Branch County	4.1	60	Lapeer County	6.9
19	Midland County	4.1	61	Clare County	7.0
20	Calhoun County	4.2	62	Oscoda County	7.0
21	Cass County	4.3	63	Iosco County	7.1
22	Hillsdale County	4.3	64	Emmet County	7.3
23	Jackson County	4.3	65	Lake County	7.3
24	Newaygo County	4.4	66	Antrim County	7.5
25	Huron County	4.5	67	Oceana County	7.6
26	Montcalm County	4.5	68	Chippewa County	7.7
27	Dickinson County	4.5	69	Luce County	7.8
28	Gratiot County	4.5	70	Crawford County	7.9
29	Shiawassee County	4.5	71	Ogemaw County	7.9
30	Saginaw County	4.5	72	Alcona County	8.0
31	Leelanau County	4.6	73	Baraga County	8.1
32	Menominee County	4.6	74	Arenac County	8.4
33	Mecosta County	4.6	75	Roscommon County	9.1
34	Muskegon County	4.6	76	Ontonagon County	9.5
35	Berrien County	4.6	77	Alger County	9.8
36	Macomb County	4.8	78	Schoolcraft County	10.1
37	Bay County	4.9	79	Presque Isle County	10.2
38	Genesee County	5.0	80	Keweenaw County	10.5
39	Houghton County	5.1	81	Montmorency County	11.7
40	Alpena County	5.2	82	Cheboygan County	14.2
41	Osceola County	5.3	83	Mackinac County	17.2
42	Gogebic County	5.3			

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